

REMARKS

Please reconsider the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering the present application and indicating that claims 2, 6, and 10 contain allowable subject matter. Further, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended in the personal Examiner Interview of August 2, 2005.

I. Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-10 and 13-15 were pending in the present application. By way of this reply, claims 13-15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1-10 are currently pending in the present application.

II. Claim Amendments

Independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the at least one interconnect is disposed without any connection to an exterior region of the clock grid. No new matter has been added by way of this amendment as support for this amendment may be found, for example, in Figures 4a, 4b, and 5 of the present application.

Claim 2 has been amended for minor clarification purposes. No new matter has been added.

Independent claim 5 has been amended to clarify that the transmission structure is disposed without any connection to an exterior region of the clock grid. No new matter has been added by way of this amendment as support for this amendment may be found, for example, in Figures 4a, 4b, and 5 of the present application.

Claim 6 has been amended for minor clarification purposes. No new matter has been added.

Independent claim 9 has been amended to clarify that the clock signal is propagated to the connection point without any connection to an exterior region of the clock grid. No new matter has been added by way of this amendment as support for this amendment may be found, for example, in Figures 4a, 4b, and 5 of the present application.

III. Specification

The Specification was objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the “direct” propagation limitation of the claimed invention. As discussed in the personal Examiner Interview of August 2, 2005 and as shown in Figures 4a, 4b, and 5 of the present application, a signal from the output of a clock driver **40** is directly propagated to a connection point of the clock grid. Accordingly, the Specification does provide support for the recital of “direct” propagation in the claims, and thus, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

IV. Rejection(s) Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, and 13-15 of the present application were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0074642 in the name of Haritsa et al. (hereinafter “Haritsa”). By way of this reply, claims 13-15 have been canceled, and accordingly, the rejections of these claims is moot. With respect to the remaining claims, for the reasons set forth below, this rejection is

respectfully traversed.

As agreed to in the personal Examiner Interview of August 2, 2005, Haritsa fails to disclose propagating a signal from a clock driver to the clock grid without a connection to an exterior region of the clock grid (*i.e.*, in Haritsa, the output of the clock driver is connected to an exterior region, or edge, of the clock grid as shown in Figure 4 of Haritsa). *See* Interview Summary of August 2, 2005. In view of this discussion, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 5, and 9 of the present application to more clearly claim that propagation of a signal from the clock driver to a connection point at a non-exterior region of a clock grid occurs without any connection to an exterior region of the clock grid as shown in Figures 4a, 4b, and 5 of the present application. *See id.* As indicated in the Interview Summary of August 2, 2005, such a feature is novel. *Id.*

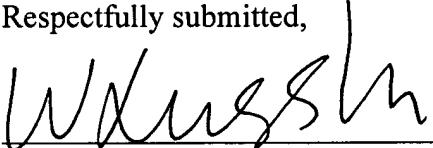
As the notion of “direct” propagation has been discussed in detail and at length in previous papers, Applicant believes the amendments herein merely clarify the claimed subject matter and do not require further search and/or consideration. Accordingly, entry of the amendments herein and favorable treatment thereof is respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places the present application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 03226.136001; P6821).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 8/29/05


Wasif Qureshi, Reg. No. 51,048
OSHA • LIANG L.L.P.
One Houston Center, Suite 2800
1221 McKinney Street
Houston, TX 77010
Telephone: (713) 228-8600
Facsimile: (713) 228-8778

114598_1